

The Brooklyn Paper

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Serenity now

Join Larisa Fuchs and Jesse Sheidloweras they host an all-night costume party and screening of the cult sci-fi TV series Firefly. Read more in GO Brooklyn on page 5.

CALM DOWN!

City wants to slow traffic with extra parking

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Now try to get off the BQE. Drivers will have to hit the brakes in Cobble Hill thanks to a plan that uses parked cars to make school-side intersections feel less like a NASCAR raceway. The city wants to narrow Hicks Street near Union Street, where drivers rush to and from the Brooklyn–Queens Expressway, by allowing dozens of cars to park along the thoroughfare during morning rush hour — a tactic the city is increasingly using as a “traffic calming” measure in Brownstone



MEAN Streets

The battle for Brooklyn's byways

Brooklyn. The Department of Transportation says a thinner street will help slow down drivers, prevent highway spillover traffic and create “a buffer” for walkers crossing the street, which is just few blocks from PS 29. The road change frees up roughly 120

parking spaces on the two-lane north-bound from 7 to 10 am on weekdays by scrapping one of the area's leftover strips of rush-hour “no standing” signs. Neighbors are cheering the plan, saying Union Street's well-used Cobble Hill-to-Columbia Waterfront District connection is a death trap for pedestrians, partly due to a chain-link fence that makes it hard for drivers to see humans. “The safety issue is crossing over the BQE — but this could be the right prescription for it,” said neighbor Brian McCormick. See **TRAFFIC** on page 2



The city's plan aims to tame drivers so pedestrians can safely cross the street.



Metropolitan City Market manager Jack Gio says olives go great with a glass of wine.

Market forces

Organic oasis opens on Myrtle Avenue

By Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

Downtown's burgeoning baguette set has a new, upscale grocery to pick up fresh baked breads, gourmet cheese, and sushi made on site — as the ground floor of the luxury Torren tower is helping transform Myrtle Avenue from food des-

ert to organic oasis. Metropolitan City Market opened last weekend in the 240-unit tower at Flatbush Avenue Extension — and neighbors said it brings a wealth of food to a area where it was once difficult to find a loaf of bread. “It's gorgeous!” said Carly

Gieseler, who lives in the Avalon apartments across the street. “It's really a great thing to have in the neighborhood — and it's convenient for all the residents of the high-rises around here.” And that includes residents who have suffered See **MARKET** on page 9



Corn is thriving on this Gowanus sidewalk.

What drought? Bklyn corn growing fine

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Mother nature apparently prefers the urban jungle. A merciless drought killed off much of the Midwest's corn crop — but the tough-to-grow staple is thriving on a sidewalk in

Park Slope. Workers at Ivy Garden — a health food shop on Fourth Avenue and President Street — recently harvested several six-foot-tall corn plants using two patches of dirt near the store. The corn-centric mini-farm impresses even the most green-

thumbed Brooklynites, who say the crop is difficult to grow in the kind of tiny plots generally found in Brooklyn. “It's a great juxtaposition and a reminder that you don't need acres to grow beautiful things,” said Frieda Lim, who turned her roof into a garden in

Gowanus. Lim said she doesn't grow corn but that she recently harvested a bunch of juicy tomatoes, cucumbers, and eggplants — which is more than some farmers in the corn belt can say. This year's crop of corn and soybeans suffered from the worst

drought the Midwest has seen in 76 years — which caused plants to die, prices to surge and farmers to panic. Unlike those disappointed soil-stompers, these Gowanus-based urban farmers aren't looking to turn kernels into a career.

The roped-off plants, which produced several ears, are for fun, not profit, and aren't for sale. Keeping them healthy was easier than you'd expect — with the help of one key ingredient. “There's no secret,” said Linda, a clerk at the shop. “Really, we just water them.”

CONEY ISLAND'S WILD RIDES

Wheel wars

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

There isn't enough room in Coney Island for two big wheels, the owners of the landmarked Deno's Wonder Wheel said this week as they lashed out against thrill seekers' plans to bring a new 600-foot observation disk to the People's Playground. Both Borough President Markowitz and Dick Zigun, the unofficial mayor of Coney Island, say the observation wheel currently planned for Staten Island would be a fine addition to the amusement area, but operators of the 150-foot Wonder Wheel say the 92-year-old ride featured in the movie “The Warriors,” is and always should be a Coney Island original. “Modern amusement parks may have several roller coasters, but there's only room for one



Deno “DJ” Vourderis agrees that there is only room enough in Coney Island for one wheel — his father's Wonder Wheel.

wheel,” a ride spokeswoman said. “Why would anyone want to build another?” Staten Island's proposed wheel would rival the London Eye and become the tallest observation ride in the world if the city decides to cash in on

the Rock's view of the Manhattan skyline and go ahead with its construction. But Coney Island boosters argued that the move would steal the People's Playground's spotlight and pit the outer boroughs See **WHEEL** on page 2

Chute 'em up

Jump to get lit

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

The company that brought Luna Park and the Scream Zone to Coney Island is close to penning a deal that will allow it to fulfill a longtime dream of Borough President Markowitz's — stringing up the Parachute Jump with millions of lights so it can be seen from Mars, insiders say. The city's Economic Development Corporation, which will oversee the Parachute Jump's bling-over that Markowitz has invested \$2 million in taxpayer dollars towards, would not confirm that Central Amusements has won the bid to light up the landmarked spire, but Coney Island civic leaders say the company has been parading around a video of what the iconic ride



The famed Parachute Jump will receive a \$2 million necklace of new lights.

would look like if they were given the contract. “It looked like you really could see it from space,” said Mermaid Parade founder Dick Zigun, who said he viewed the video where the ride is re-illuminated complete with dancing LED lights synchronized with the brilliant beams of the Scream Zone. “I was com-



Park Slope's long-shuttered Sixth Avenue library is open again — finally!

Page turner

Park Slope cheers Sixth Ave library's long-delayed return

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

A long-shuttered library in Park Slope is closing the book on years of renovation delays — and opening the doors to fancy new technology and more public meeting space. The Brooklyn Public Library's branch at Sixth Avenue and Ninth Street will reopen on Sept. 13 after three years of construction, three opening-date push-backs, and dozens of complaints about the boarded-up eyesore. The library will now boast a refurbished interior — complete with a large “multi-purpose room” — along with free

wireless internet and iPads just for kids. “Expect to walk into a beautiful new library,” said spokeswoman Emma Wood. The upgraded lit house will also feature more than 20,000 new books, self check-out machines, and new wheelchair ramps. The city first announced renovations in 2009, saying a revamp was required to make the century-old building handicapped-accessible. But the budget soon ballooned by \$700,000 to \$2.7 million — and the city extended the project to include an air conditioning system and See **LIBRARY** on page 9



Twisted metal beams mark the spot where two construction workers fell after the third floor at the Carlton Avenue project collapsed. One of the construction workers died.

DEADLY COLLAPSE

One killed, four injured at Fort Greene site

By Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

A construction worker was killed and four others were injured — one seriously — on Monday morning when the Carlton Avenue building they were working on collapsed underneath them. Department of Buildings officials said five workers were loading cinder blocks and other heavy materials onto the top of the still-under-construction project

between DeKalb and Willoughby avenues when the floor gave way at 9:15 am — sending two workers plunging to the basement. A 67-year-old worker who had not been identified by Monday afternoon was taken to Brooklyn Hospital, where he died of his injuries. A second member of the construction crew was in serious condition at Kings County Hospital, an FDNY spokesman said. Block residents said they heard

a loud noise seconds before the building collapsed. “I was having coffee when I heard a bam, bam, bam!” said Joe Louis, who lives down the block from the construction site and said he always crosses the street instead of walking under the building's scaffolding. “My nephew asked me if it was thunder, but I said no because it was so clear outside.” See **COLLAPSE** on page 2

Clones lose playoffs after gruelling rubber match

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

The Cyclones' championship dreams were dashed for the 10th straight season on Monday when the hated Hudson Valley Renegades shutout the Clones 2-0 in upstate New York.

The Clones landed a NY-Penn League wild card spot after securing a first-place finish among second-place teams — giving the team their ninth playoff berth since their inaugural season in 2001 — on Sept. 5, paving the way for a match-up against the McNamara

The Ride



Division-leading Renegades. The Mini-Mets managed to shutout Hudson Valley in a dazzling playoff opener at MCU Park, but lost the last two — the final showdown being a whimpering 2-0 loss in Dutchess County. Here's a roundup of the se-

ries' highs and lows: **PLAYOFF GAME 1 Sept. 7, MCU Park** The highlight of this 4-0 win was the spirit-lifting nine-inning performance by NY-Penn League pitching leader Hansel Robles, who struck out 10 and

sent the Renegades offense down in order five times on Friday — surrendering just four hits and walking none. And Cyclones' batters wasted no time getting on the scoreboard. Center fielder Brandon Nimmo kicked See **CYCLONES** on page 9

TRAFFIC...

Continued from page 1

In February, neighbors and parents demanded the city make the street safer, claiming it's only a matter of time before a child gets hit on the way to school.

Hicks Street has two lanes of northbound traffic and one lane of southbound traffic, separated by a median that serves as an overpass above the highway.

The city began changing its policy of allowing drivers to use Brooklyn's residential streets as service roads in 1999 when morning rush hour "no standing" were removed from Clinton Street between Atlantic and Hamilton avenues in Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens — two neighborhoods where residents had complained for years that hurried drivers used

their streets instead of staying on the highway. The city called the Clinton Street plan a "success," then brought back rush hour parking to Smith Street, Atlantic Avenue, and other nearby streets.

The Department of Transportation recently conducted a new study to examine driving patterns on the Hicks Street and determine how to make it safer, according to an agency spokeswoman.

"The current configuration's wide roadway contributes to speeding," said spokeswoman Nicole Garcia. "Adjusting parking regulations can help narrow the roadway."

Community Board 6 will review the plan on Sept. 12 and the city can then give it an official green light.

COLLAPSE...

Continued from page 1

The Department of Buildings was still trying to find the exact cause of the collapse by Monday afternoon, but some residents say workers were rushing the job.

"Somebody really screwed up is my guess — the building wasn't ready to hold the load," said Tim Rutgers, an independent contractor who said he saw workers loading cinder blocks on the top of the under-construction row houses planned for the landmarked Fort Greene historic district. "Construction is

a dangerous job, but with brand-new construction, that shouldn't happen."

Workers at the site agreed with Rutgers's assessment.

"The load was too heavy," Ignatius Regis, a bricklayer working on the building told the New York Times. "I heard a big noise and I saw this guy go down."

The Fire Department said that engines were on the scene two minutes after the 911 call was made, but that it took 20 minutes to extricate the two workers from the basement rubble.

JUMP...

Continued from page 1

pletely blown away by it."

An insider at Central Amusements confirmed that a deal for the Parachute Jump is close to being struck, although no contracts have been finalized.

"We will be doing the lighting," he said.

New York City Economic Development Corporation members said they received a handful of bids from companies willing to take on the lighting project, but would not disclose any names.

"We received multiple bids, as in more than two, for this one," said city Economic Development Corporation spokesman Benjamin Branham.

Markowitz called for the ghostly ride to be returned to its glimmering glory in his February State of the Borough address, vowing an inter-galactic shimmer-fest would be under-

way before he left office next year.

"We'll relight the Parachute Jump with enough bling so it can be seen from outer space," he said.

Markowitz's office declined to comment on Central Amusements' possible involvement in the project.

The Parachute Jump debuted at the 1939 World's Fair, and then relocated to Steeplechase Park two years later. At its heyday, jumpers would drift to the ground strapped to parachutes held open with metal rings and guided by wires.

In 2006, the city hired designer Leri Schwendinger to install a \$1.4 million lighting system, powered by 17 lamps and 150 lighting fixtures, that kept the ride illuminated on summer nights, before his creation was eventually extinguished.

Food with a view!

Smorgasburg gets second home in DUMBO

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

A Williamsburg food fest-turned-international culinary hot spot is getting a second waterfront home, where a sweeping view of the Brooklyn Bridge will be on the menu.

The gastro-centric marketplace Smorgasburg — where farmers meet foodies on Saturdays at N. Sixth Street — is expanding to DUMBO's Tobacco Warehouse on Sundays for twice the scenic outdoor grub.

Organizer Eric Demby said the expansion comes at the request of eager food vendors, who hope to make some extra dough and get more exposure from the bridge and Manhattan skyline-boasting location.

"It's such a beautiful spot —

there's just something magical about the Brooklyn Bridge," Demby said.

The Sunday food fest — which will keep the market's punny name despite DUMBO's unfortunate lack of a "burg" suffix — will feature roughly 75 vendors, making it three-fourths the size of its flagship location.

Demby said the new market, which will run Sept. 9–Nov. 18, will feature mouth-watering grub from vendors such as "a chili guy I'm excited about" and a team of bakery owners who "frost-to-order black and white cookies" but, alas, no beer, at least for now.

It's not the first time Demby — who also operates the Brooklyn Flea in Fort Greene and Williamsburg — set up shop in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

In 2009, the vintage clothes and



Jonathan Butler (left) and Eric Demby are bringing their Smorgasburg to DUMBO.

more, well, organically.

"It's like having a baby: You can't know its identity until it's actually there," Demby said. "All you can do is watch it grow and hope for the best."

Smorgasburg at Tobacco Warehouse [26 New Dock St. at Water Street in DUMBO, www.brooklynflea.com/smorgasburg] Every Sunday through Nov. 18. Free.

Barbecue joint takes key corner

Much-anticipated chichi meatery gearing up for Adams Street opening

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

A much-anticipated high-end barbecue restaurant is inching closer to an opening date that will beef-up Downtown's dining scene, restaurateurs and realtors say.

Owners of American BBQ and Beer Co. — who want to serve 150 brews alongside a smoke pit and a "seafood station" — say they're fired up for an April opening date at Adams and Willoughby streets, where they recently demolished the second floor portion of the building to make way for the eatery.

"We're hoping it becomes an Brooklyn institution," said owner Mark Advent, a Las Vegas-based hotel developer. "It's barbecue without the shtick."



Beer and barbecue is coming to the ground floor of the Adams Street Municipal Building.

Advent last week secured approval from a Community Board 2 committee tasked with okaying liquor license permits for the fancy meat joint, which will also feature a wood-burning oven, live lobster tanks and a deep-fried turkey station, across from Shake Shack.

Downtown-boosters are cheering its arrival, saying the new business could help form a bold "restaurant row" on Adams Street.

"It will be unlike anything else in the area; it's another step towards establishing Downtown as a real, full-time neighborhood," said Jason Muss, whose firm owns the building at 345 Adams St.

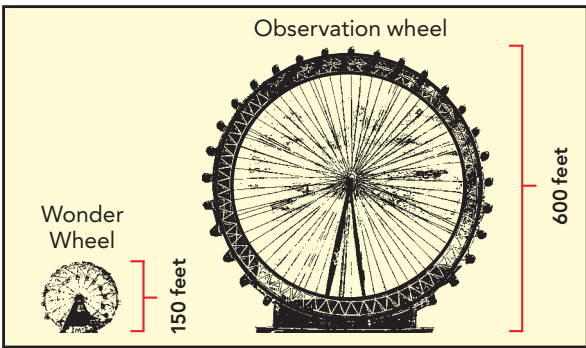
News of the eatery comes after Morton's the Steakhouse, located just a few blocks away, shockingly closed, disappointing carnivorous foodies earlier this year.

Advent said the restaurant will also boast an "open expo market feel," sell beer in growlers and feature a full bakery.

He will seek outdoor seating permits — presumably along the recently completed giant sidewalk that connects the building to the Shake Shack burger joint across the street — but said he doesn't yet have seating numbers locked down.

Borough boosters hope the new business will further enhance a burgeoning food and retail corridor in and near Fulton Mall, which is gearing up to welcome H&M and Express stores next year.

"American BBQ and Beer Co. is a great addition to the various flavors that make up the neighborhood," said Tucker Reed, president of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership.



WHEEL...

Continued from page 1

in a wheel war.

"The city needs to stay focused on rebuilding Coney into a first-class major tourist destination," said Zigun. "It shouldn't encourage competition with Coney within the five boroughs."

But if such a competition took place, Brooklyn would cream Staten Island, crowed the borough's biggest booster.

"The city should consider what location will provide the biggest bang for the buck, and the strongest economic return, and no doubt that place is Coney Island," Borough President Markowitz said.

Zigun added that if the observation wheel was put in Coney Island, it should stand a re-

spectful distance away from the Wonder Wheel to avoid a revolving rivalry that would challenge the historic ride's uninterrupted reign.

Yet there may not be any competition: Observation wheels are different than traditional Ferris wheels, manufacturers say.

Instead of sitting in swaying, open-air carriages, observation wheel riders sit in fixed, bus-sized capsules that can carry more than 20 people, manufacturers say.

THE BROOKLYN BACKSTORY

CELEBRATING THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE BOROUGH OF KINGS

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Williamsburg

A hood that lives by the seat of its stovepipe pants

By Shavana Abruzzo
The Brooklyn Paper

Williamsburg's personality disorder has been through its ups and downs, but it has also been its saving grace.

A couple of decades ago, the far-flung outpost in North Brooklyn — once the pulse of a magnificent industrial age that drew Cornelius Vanderbilt to its elegant, waterfront resorts — was prime sirloin for drug dealers, its long-standing Hasidim, Polish, Latin American, and Italian communities stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Undesirables brazenly pushed through the old wooden turnstiles at the neglected Bedford Avenue subway station while the token booth clerk snoozed. A cocaine bar called Kokie's on the corner of Berry and N. Third streets — where the Levee tavern now stands — italicized the melancholy.

"We knew there were people doing coke inside," Jeff Jensen tells Vice.com. "You have no idea how blown-out and desolate the neighborhood was back then."

Yuko Nii, founder and artistic director of the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center at 135 Broadway, witnessed the misery.

"No decent person wanted to buy the properties or move here," she says.

Around the early 1980s, a new wave of settlers arrived. Young professionals and artsy types, escaping high rents in Manhattan, flocked to the cheap, sunny



ART-SMART: Eye-popping murals point to the area's arts community, and lend visual appeal.

lofts of former factories, spurring an economic, social, and cultural revolution.

Today, the Billyburg where Barbra Streisand, Gene Simmons, Barry Manilow, Bugsy Siegel, and Henry Miller grew up bustles on the border of Greenpoint, Bushwick, Bedford Stuyvesant, and Ridgewood, Queens, eagerly awaiting its next seismic shift.

Its energetic young vibe is splashed audaciously against an hypnotic jumble of old buildings and la-di-da waterfront high rises, and its cobble streets are a lively sprawl of cafes, boutiques, galleries, and restaurants patronized by a fringe culture of "deck" young hipsters powering a fierce indie arts and music scene that rages unspent.

Williamsburg — originally a boggy lowland covered by dense scrub-oak and cripplebush whose narrow trails snaked over morasses easily traversed by wild animals and Native Americans, but impenetrable to Old Worlders — has even gone prime time.

The new CBS sitcom 2 Broke Girls follows the lives of struggling waitresses working in a Williamsburg diner, emerging as the network's top-rated new comedy last season.

A flurry of new businesses are also ka-chinging their way to the bank.

"It's a really exciting neighborhood with a lot of music, art, and fashion, all the reasons people come to New York," says Philippa Content, who owns and operates

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BARCLAYS CENTER
BROOKLYN

Cinema’s opening delayed

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Williamsburg’s first new multiplex cinema has missed the summer season, and a premiere night is not in sight.

Months after the new Williamsburg Cinemas was slated to open, the moviehouse is sitting unfinished on the corner of Grand Street and Driggs Avenue

as developers struggle to fit all of its seven viewing rooms into the corner lot.

“Fitting seven auditoriums on an 8,500-square-foot site is difficult,” said Robert McCall of Philadelphia-based JKR Partners, which is the architect on the project.

McCall said he is confident the theater will open before the lucrative holiday movie season,

but wouldn’t pinpoint a date.

The Williamsburg Cinemas is owned by the same people who run the successful Cobble Hill Cinemas on Court Street between Butler and Douglass streets, and are expected to host the same mix of mainstream and indie films.

It will be the first major moviehouse in the neighborhood. The only other movie theater in Wil-

liamsburg is the boutique Nitehawk, which only shows two movies at a time. That theater-residential complex opened last year, after a previous theater project slated for the same space — called the Cassandra Cinemas and Metropolitan Cinemas — went bust in 2008 after the developer could not secure financing.

Neighborhood movie lovers

said the delay is disappointing. Organizers at the Williamsburg International Film Festival, which runs from Sept. 20 through 23, had hoped to show some of this year’s films at the cinema, but had to switch its gaze to other venues.

“We were supposed to partner with them this year, but they just weren’t ready,” said Willifest director Michael Helman.



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

The Williamsburg Cinemas, which were supposed to open this summer, are now expected to open this fall.

Dems: Vito no longer boss

After scandal, politicians emerge from Lopez’s shadow

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Scandal-scarred Assemblyman Vito Lopez is losing his ironclad grip on borough politicians, as leaders who never dared cross the influential Democratic boss are defying his wishes now that he’s stepping down from his party post due to a sexual harassment investigation.

Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Greenpoint) — a former Lopez supporter — made it clear that the Bushwick pol no longer runs the show by endorsing Democratic district leader Lincoln Restler, Lopez’s bitter rival.

“I wanted to endorse Lincoln from the start, but knew Lopez had problems with him,” said Lentol, who came out swinging for Restler in his reelection campaign for the obscure party post against Lopez-backed candidate Chris Olechowski. “I wanted to respect Lopez.”

Lentol — who claims he actually helped Lopez attain his top Democratic party spot in 2006 — said it’s time to move past Lopez’s strong-armed style of leadership.

“You can’t have a Democratic party that exists by fiat,” said Lentol, who added his name to the long list of borough politicians calling for Lopez to resign from the Assembly. “I believe this community can leave behind the petty politics that have seeped in over the past few years.”

And Lentol isn’t the only Democrat now willing to cross Lopez.

Warren Cohn, who ran against Restler in the 2010 election with Lopez’s blessing, also came out in support of his former rival.

“Lincoln has worked incredibly hard for the community,” said Cohn. “He has earned my respect and deserves to be reelected. I know that he will continue to deliver results and help establish new leadership in Brooklyn.”

And Brooklyn political insider Hank Sheinkopf expects other Democrats will emerge from the shadow Lopez cast over Brooklyn politics.

“More people are going to start doing things they wouldn’t have done before,” said Sheinkopf. “People outside of his district have no reason to have an allegiance to him anymore.”



File photo by Aaron Greenhood

Brooklyn Democrats are starting to go against the wishes of soon-to-step-down party boss Vito Lopez.

tol’s endorsement and distanced himself from Lopez, who has put his support behind the Community Board 1 chairman.

“I have no reason to feel there should be backlash,” said Olechowski. “I run my own campaign and raise my own funds. I’m very proud of what I’m doing here. I have people who support me.”

Musical chairman meetings

Lopez moves pivotal meeting to remote Southern Brooklyn

By Danielle Furfaro
for The Brooklyn Paper

Scandal-scarred Assemblyman Vito Lopez made sure that the meeting where his successor will be selected will be in a hard-to-reach spot of Southern Brooklyn, claim Brownstone Brooklyn Democratic district leaders who say the beleaguered boss is trying to disenfranchise their votes.



Democratic district leader Lincoln Restler thinks the new meeting location is too difficult to get to.

For the last several years the meeting where Democratic district leaders select a new chairman has been in St. Francis College in Brooklyn Heights, but this year’s meeting — slated for Sept. 19 — will be held at Kingsborough Community College, about a half-mile from the Sheepshead Bay Road B/Q stop.

Meeting attendees commuting by public transit will have to take the train and then hop on a bus before landing at the Manhattan Beach community college, griped Northern Brooklyn district leaders who found it odd that the meeting change takes place as

Southern Brooklyn Democratic district leader Frank Seddio is the frontrunner in the race to replace Lopez.

“This is yet another power

Pol: Lopez gave me a new lease on life

By Thomas Tracy
The Brooklyn Paper

Embattled Assemblyman Vito Lopez rushed to the aid of Councilman Lew Fidler when the Marine Park Democratic district leader was misdiagnosed with leukemia in July, the grateful city legislator said last week as he warned colleagues not to judge a book by its cover — even one being investigated for sexually harassing female staffers.

Fidler (D–Marine Park) told more than 1,500 Facebook friends last Tuesday night that when his doctors said the anemia he was suffering from might be the onset of the potentially fatal blood

disease he turned to Lopez, a leukemia survivor.

Lopez introduced Fidler to the top doctors at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, who discovered that the councilman didn’t have leukemia, but the kidney problems he suffered from in March during the state senate run he lost to David Storobin had resurfaced.

Fidler was happy that Lopez interceded on his behalf.

“We should never judge someone as all good or all bad,” Fidler said. “Vito did this for me despite the fact that we have had sharp differences in the past.”

Brooklyn Democratic leaders



Councilman Lew Fidler

— and even former Lopez-ally Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) — have been calling for the Bushwick politician to step

down after he was censured for allegedly groping, attempting to kiss, and starting sexually charged discussions with staffers.

Lopez agreed to give up his position as Democratic party boss, but is refusing to give up his Assembly seat.

“Outside individuals and interest groups have asked for me to resign,” Lopez wrote in a curt, all-caps message to reporters last Tuesday.

“I believe the people should decide who should represent them. I will not capitulate to those self-serving tactics and demands.”

To Fidler, who was laid up in the

hospital for more than two weeks when an allergic reaction to his gout medication wreaked havoc on his kidneys earlier this year, the misdiagnosis — and the possibility of having a few years to live — was a sobering experience.

“Your bucket list changes when you are facing certain and impending death,” he said.

“I can’t say that seeing the penguins on the Galapagos Islands seemed that important anymore.”

His kidney problems require repeat dialysis treatments, but Fidler said that’s not going to stop him from serving out his council term, which ends next year.

Brook Farm General Store with her husband Christopher Winterbourne at 75 S. Sixth St. near Berry Street.

Paul Kermizian, co-owner of Barcade bar at Union Avenue and Ainslie Street, has also seen Williamsburg undergo immense changes since opening in 2004 on the site of a former burial ground.

“Obviously the proximity to Manhattan has made it a very attractive place for people to live, and the neighborhood has developed incredibly in that time,” he says. “It’s been an exciting place for our business to start.”

One pair of entrepreneurs looked to Williamsburg to revive Brooklyn’s reputation as the suds capital of the nation by opening Brooklyn Brewery in 1988 at 79 North 11th St. — a throwback to the 19th century when the borough boasted more than 40 breweries. The returns have been toast-worthy for Steve Hindy, a former journalist, and his business partner, former banker Tom Potter, whose flavorful ales are currently distributed in 25 states and 20 countries.

“Steve and Tom made Williamsburg hip,” writes Mayor Bloomberg in the foreword for Hindy and Potter’s book, “Beer School: Bottling Success at the Brooklyn Brewery.”

The area’s main thoroughfare just happens to be the longest street in Brooklyn — eight-mile-long Bedford Avenue.

“If you walk down Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, you run the gamut of several of the ethnic areas of Brooklyn all on one street,” says Brooklyn Borough Historian Ron Schweiger.

Williamsburg’s name is also the stuff of enigma. It’s unclear exactly why colonist and real estate speculator Richard M. Woodhull — namesake of Woodhull Medical Center at Broadway and Flushing Avenue — christened the 13-acres of land he bought in 1792 around North Second Street, then known as Bushwick Street, after surveyor Jonathan Williams. His ambitious plan was to attract New Yorkers and boost his newly-opened ferry service to Grand Street in Manhattan



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

TOWER AND CONQUER: A real estate boom is turning previously defunct properties into a developer’s dream.

— the easiest way to cross the East River until the Williamsburg Bridge opened in 1903 as the world’s largest suspension bridge.

It’s a safe bet though that Williams’s blood ties — he was the grand nephew of Benjamin Franklin — were instrumental in naming the Village of Williamsburgh, which claimed a population of 1,007 when it was incorporated on April 4, 1827. It was designated as the City of Williamsburgh in 1852, and three years later dropped the “h” when it became part of the City of Brooklyn and formed the Eastern District with the Town of Bushwick.

Alas, Woodhull’s fortunes dwindled, and it wasn’t until the Wallabout and Newtown Turnpike was built in the early 1800s, linking coast to land, that Williamsburg became a fashionable resort town frequented by the

likes of railroad magnate James Fisk and Williams Whitney. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 ushered in a manufacturing boon, and within a few years, the region was the nerve center of American industrial leviathans, such as Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, the Havemeyer and Elder sugar refinery later known as Amstar and Domino, and Corningware ancestor Brooklyn Flint Glass.

Thanks to Williamsburg, Americans also became familiar with “Alice in Wonderland” and Charles Darwin’s “The Origin of Species,” published in the U.S. by D. Appleton and Company, which set up shop in the thriving ramble of businesses, docks, mills, foundries, and shipyards sprouting fast and furiously along the waterfront. Up to 15,000 commercial sea vessels lugged raw materials, oil, chemicals, fuel, and metals in and out of Newtown Creek, annually,

polluting the inlet. It remained a neglected waterway until 2010 when the federal government demanded its clean up.

Billyburg’s role in pop culture is well documented. In 2007, the New York Fringe Festival proudly presented “Williamsburg! The Musical.” Avril Lavigne filmed a music video at the now-defunct Commodore theater at Metropolitan Avenue and Havemeyer Street. The 1996 film “Sleepers” features Most Holy Trinity Church on Montrose Avenue in several scenes. And the 1981 Hollywood movie “The Chosen” was a neighborhood classic.

Literary masters have been inspired, too: Betty Smith based “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn” in Williamsburg, and during the late 1800s, Henry Miller spent a part of his childhood in a three-story brick building at Driggs and Roebling avenues, later immortalizing the block in “The Tropic of

Capricorn” as “the ideal street for a boy, a lover, a maniac, a drunkard, a crook, a lecher, a thug, an astronomer, a musician, a poet, a tailor, a shoemaker, a politician.”

Driggs Avenue, along with North First and Fillmore Place, also crops up in Miller’s “Black Spring,” in which he calls them “the boundaries of the known world.”

These days, Williamsburg’s renaissance seems limitless, amid concerns about more power plants and solid waste companies — and head-butting between newcomers and long-standing dwellers fearful of their humble enclave becoming too gentrified. Even its most ardent fans agree that it can be edgy to a fault.

“I’d say Williamsburg’s a place where people come to enjoy music, art, and nightlife, and to also disobey traffic signals,” says Kermizian.

Billyburg bonus

Six things you need to know about this nabe’s history

• Newtown Creek is a SuperFund site.

• Pop princess Avril Lavigne filmed a music video at the now-defunct Commodore theater at Metropolitan Avenue and Havemeyer Street.

• Singer and actress Barbra Streisand spent some of her formative years growing up in Williamsburg.

• Betty Smith’s iconic 1943 novel “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn” was set in Williamsburg.

• Henry Miller’s controversial semi-autobiographical novel “The Tropic of Capricorn” refers to Williamsburg.

• Former Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia opened the Williamsburg Houses in 1938 as the nation’s first public housing development for low-income families.

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Shades of crime: Thief steals sunglasses

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown
A 15-year-old kid was arrested for robbing a sunglass store on Nostrand Avenue on Aug. 27 of — what else — some cool shades. An employee told police he was working at the store between Herkimer and Fulton streets at 4:20 pm when the suspect entered the store and grabbed a pair of sunglasses. “What if this was a stickup?” the suspect asked the victim, before showing him the handle of pistol stuck in his waistband and sauntering out of the store.

Fashion thief
A 24-year-old woman was arrested for shoplifting clothing from a Fulton Street retailer on Sept. 7. A security guard told police that he was working inside the store between Gallatin Place and Hoyte Street at 4:30 pm when he noticed the suspect stuffing clothes into a bag and then attempt to leave without paying.

Planks a lot
A 34-year-old man threatened another man with a nail

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope
Hole-y mole-y!
A crafty thief swiped some cash from an office building on St. Johns Place on Aug. 31 — “Mission Im-

90TH PRECINCT
Southside–Bushwick
Cruel crook
A heartless thug robbed a handicapped woman who was waiting outside of a newsstand on Varet Street in her motorized wheelchair on Sept. 8. The woman told police that she was waiting to buy a paper at the stand between Graham Avenue and Humboldt Street at 11:20 am when the robber grabbed her purse, grabbed an unknown amount of money, and then threw the purse back at her. He then sped away on a silver bicycle.

POLICE BLOTTER
Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

Bookworm
A perp swiped a computer from a woman at a library on Fourth Avenue on Sept. 4. The 32-year-old victim told cops she set a Sony laptop on a desk at a Brooklyn Public Library branch near Pacific Street at 3 pm, then walked away for 25 minutes to use a copy machine. She came back and discovered it was gone.

Tax, man!
Cops say a tax service company pocketed money belonging to a client on Third Avenue last March. The 31-year-old victim told

88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene–Clinton Hill
Coffee mugged
Police arrested a woman who they say slashed a man in the face with a broken mug handle in the Atlantic Avenue train station on Sept. 4. The 45-year-old victim told cops he was with his fiancée in the station near Flatbush Avenue at 2 am when the woman slashed the left side of his face.

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(718) 260-2500 *The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings* September 14–20, 2012



Double-fest fresh

Willifest and Greenpoint Film Festival share the weekend

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The line between Williamsburg and Greenpoint continues to blur, but two film festivals are bringing the two nabes head-to-head on one weekend this month.

The Williamsburg International Film Festival — also known as Willifest — is the bigger of the two festivals, with 110 films that tend toward the “Hollywood-ish and international,” according to festival director Michael Helman.

And there’s plenty more than films to watch — including the Harlem Globetrotters.

“There are only so many films people can take in over three days,” said Helman. “Our focus is to be a very large arts festival, with performance art, music and technology. Each year, we’ve added a new element.”

On the other hand, the Greenpoint festival’s more than 80 films focus more on experimental, artistic and activist films.

The festival was started by a group of Brooklyn artists looking for another place to showcase creativity. In its second year, this is just the first time that the festival has accepted submissions. For each category, eight judges screened the submissions and the highest-rated were selected to appear.

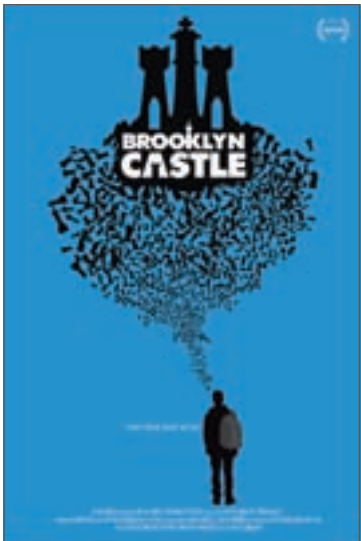
With films highlighting social justice, ethnography, and environmental activism — as well narrative based films —



Fest to fest: Founder Michael Helman’s Willifest is featuring “Brooklyn Castles,” a documentary following kids from a borough public school who become the nation’s best chess competitors. (Top) Rosa Valado (seated at right) and her Greenpoint Film Festival crew are highlighting social justice and activist films like “Newtown,” by Sara Choi.

organizers said they aren’t too worried about the conflicting schedules.

“We had a weekend picked out, but then we realized it was the same weekend as the New York Film Festival. So we switched it to the new weekend and



then realized it was the same weekend as the Williamsburg festival,” said Greenpoint Film Festival founder and organizer Rosa Valado.

“But we decided to leave it since the audience is different enough that it doesn’t

hurt either one of us.”

One thing both festivals have in common is the prominence of Brooklyn films.

Two of the most prominent films featured in Willifest are “Brooklyn Castle,” an uplifting documentary about a champion chess team from a middle school in Williamsburg, and the “Domino Effect,” which is about the former sugar factory, and the banks, the developers, the politicians, and the non-profit organizations that shape this city.

The Greenpoint Film Festival will include some themed screenings, such as an environmental screening at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

One of the films that will be featured is actually titled “Newtown” — an eight-minute short about the polluted creek.

“It looks at a lot of the activists that were fighting for justice and the issues that were not getting taken care of,” said filmmaker Sara Choi.

And while Valado said the judges did not give preference to Brooklyn-made films, many of borough’s own rose to the top of their categories on their own merit. Willifest also concentrated on an array of films from all over the world, but still features a handful of Brooklyn movies.

“It speaks to the high caliber of locally-made film,” said Valado.

For venues hosting festival films see www.willifest.com and greenpointfilmfestival.org, Sept.20–23.

THEATER

Novel mixer

As if reading Faulkner weren’t hard enough, here comes the remix.

A Fort Green-based theater company dubbed Elevator Repair Service is making its Brooklyn debut with a feat in dramatic engineering.

“Shuffle,” is a novel mash-up of texts from F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby,” William Faulkner’s “The Sound and the Fury,” and Ernest Hemingway’s “The Sun Also Rises.”

Actors amid the Brooklyn Public Library’s shelves will recite excerpts from the novels, resulting in an on-the-spot show of literary gibberish — not unlike the multi-voice masterpiece by Faulkner.

“There will be apparent nonsense, then this crystal clear interaction will occur,” said John Collins, the company’s artistic director.

Jay Gatsby’s words could collide with Quentin Compson’s in an impossible conversation, perhaps over wine in Pamplona, or Lady Brett Ashley may seduce Tom Buchanan, by way of a Benjy Compson verbal miscue — one can hope.

“Shuffle” at the Brooklyn Public Library [10 Grand Army Pl. at Eastern Parkway, (347) 762–3281, www.beatbrooklyn.com], Sept. 20–22, 7 pm. \$35.

— Hannah Palmer Egan

BOOKS

Comic stand

Sickness, alcoholism and dead-end jobs aren’t typical comic strip material — but Julia Wertz isn’t a typical cartoonist.

The wryly funny and boundary-pushing Brooklyn-based illustrator — who earned a following for her simple, sarcastic zine “Fart Party” — will showcase her new graphic memoir at a comic-centric Brooklyn Book Festival reading.

Her new book, “The Infinite Wait,” is mostly about her childhood, including her struggle with the auto-immune disease lupus, a story concept a “big name publishing house” told her to ditch — prompting her to ditch them instead, said Wertz (she switched to Koyama Press).

“I’m glad I didn’t listen to them,” she said. “But I was also being childish, thinking, you can’t tell me what to do! You’re not my dad!”

On Sept. 22, Wertz will go through a slideshow of her new book, which she penned at a shared Greenpoint art studio called Pizza Island.

The Comics Crowd at Bergen Street Comics [470 Bergen St. betw. Flatbush and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 230–5600], Sept. 22, 8 pm. Free.

— Natalie O’Neill

SCREENING

Firefly night

Suit up and stay up to watch your favorite sci-fi TV series.

Gemini and Scorpio, local purveyors of steampunk and fantasy, are holding a screening of episodes — possibly the whole season — of “Firefly,” a sci-fi series that was cancelled but not forgotten, at their Gowanus rooftop.

Not many television shows with a partial-season 12-show run could garner widespread celebration a full decade later.

But Firefly wasn’t your typical television show.

“Firefly had that cult following from the very beginning,” said Larisa Fuchs, who is a co-founder of events company Gemini & Scorpio. “It’s such high camp and great characters and fun adventures. There’s so much fun that’s often missing from that kind of sci-fi fantasy.”

After all, it was written and directed by Joss Whedon, who also created “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” “Angel,” and “The Avengers” and is revered as a veritable god among sci-fi geeks.

Of course, in true Gemini and Scorpio (and sci-fi geek) form, there will be dressing up for the occasion. Costumes are not required to attend, but it is recommended.

And spending the night to watch this sci-fi western just wouldn’t be the same without some good old fashion cosplay.

Firefly screening (RSVP to get address. www.geminiandscorpio.com/events.html) Sept. 15.

— Danielle Furfaro

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SUNDAY

September 16

Cobtastic

Get a taste of the mid-west in Brooklyn, with the first Kings County Corn Bowl at the TBD's backyard. This exciting and delicious cob fest features chefs testing their corning skills as they serve twelve unique corn dishes to see who wins the crown of Corn King. Also, get your game on in a bean-bag-throwing tournament, enjoy the tunes from the Sundelles, and have a chicken and waffle cone.

2 pm at TBD [224 Franklin St. at Green Street, (718) 349-6727, www.kings-countycornbowl.com]. \$15 online.

MONDAY

September 17

Great American

It's novel season! Author of "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay," Michael Chabon is presenting his first novel in five years in Brooklyn, and it may be his best yet. Pop-culture heavy, plot driven, and dizzyingly big, it's a highly ambitious novel that takes readers into new territory while making them feel they're in good hands. Chabon will read and answer questions.

7:30 pm at Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St., at South Portland Avenue, (718) 246-0200, greenlightbookstore.com].

TUESDAY

September 18

Marriage advice

Enjoy a night of readings from Madmen-era books on how to seduce a rich man and helpful pamphlets on how to make your husband happy. Listen to some of the most hilarious and backwards advice given to women at "Bad Feminist Readings," and have a drink and dance afterwards. Maybe bring your mom who keeps harping on about your not getting married — still!

7 pm at Public Assembly [70 N. Sixth St., between Wythe and Kent avenues, (718) 384-4586, publicassemblynyc.com]. Free.

WEDNESDAY

September 19

High stakes

He's not hiding anymore. For over nine years author Salman Rushdie, along with his family, was under threat of murder for his novel, "The Satanic Verses," which Ayatollah Khomeini claimed was against Islam. Since then, there have been numerous similar threats against artists and others, leading to deaths, as well. Rushdie's latest book is about how he regained his freedom.

7 pm at powerHouse Arena [37 Main St., at Water Street, (718) 666-3049, powerhousearena.com]. \$35 online.

THURSDAY

September 20

Golden sax

Considered one of the greatest living sax players today, Rudresh Mahanthappa is a relentless artist. He could have cut with the best of them, like Charlie Parker and John Coltrane. Go see him and his quartet perform the celebrated 2006 album, "Codebook," which is a collection of pattern-based jazz. He'll also discuss the inspiration behind his music.

7 pm at the Brooklyn Conservatory Concert Hall [58 Seventh Ave. betw. 14th and 13th streets, (718) 622-3300, www.zerve.com/BQCMusic/Jazz]. \$25, \$20 students, seniors, \$15 standing, online.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, SEPT. 14

READING, A NIGHT IN TRANSLATION: Archipelago's Translators read from work they have translated. 7:00 p.m. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677], www.bookcourt.org.

ART, STAR GAZING: Work centers around oil painting. Following exhibition, a group will be invited to look up at the stars. free. noon-6pm. Ouchi Gallery [170 Tillary St., Suite 507].

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY FOR MOMS WITH BUST MAGAZINE: Were you a little too excited when your kids went back to school? If you answered yes, then Babeland and BUST Magazine are throwing the perfect party for you. Leave the kids with a sitter and join us for an evening of cocktails and giveaways. Free. 7 pm. Babeland [462 Bergen St. between Fifth and Flatbush avenues in Park Slope], momsbustmagazine.com.

THEATER, HOUSE PARTY: Check out this full-scale, participant activated installation by Andrew Ohnesian at The Boiler. Known for his ability to blend fiction and fact, Ohnesian creates environments that surreptitiously alter the viewer's perception of reality. Free. 7-10 pm. The Boiler [191 N. 14th St. in Williamsburg, (718) 599-2144], www.pierogi2000.com.

SAT, SEPT. 15

MUSIC, DISCO STRINGS CONCERT: With haunting psychedelic pop band Hundred in the Hands. \$12. 8 pm. Cameo Gallery [93 North 6th St. in Williamsburg, (718) 302-1180], www.cameony.net.

READING, MEDICAL STORIES: Chris Adrian reads selections from the literary magazine Granta, whose newest issue focuses on medicine. 7:00 p.m. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677], www.bookcourt.org.

ART FESTIVAL: Asian American Arts Alliance's Location the Sacred Festival's "Interpreting Rituals: The Butterfly Effect." Ranging from film screenings to ceramics, photography and print making, each work reflects on spiritual vitality as it vibrates across cultures, time and generations. Free. 1-6 pm. NARS Foundation [88 35th St. 3rd FL in Sunset Park, (718) 768-2765], narsfoundation.org/exhibitions-interpreting_rituals.php.

LECTURE ON ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM: Writer and art historian Patricia Albers will present an illustrated lecture on abstract expressionist artist Joan Mitchell. 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], brooklynmuseum.org.

SUN, SEPT. 16

BROOKLYN INDIE MUSIC FEST: Presented by The Defiant Giant, Bkindiefest, and Live in Your Living Room. Bands: The Dirty Urchins, Sri, Lyle Divinsky, Quincy Mumford, Inky Jack, Highly Suspect, and iET. \$5-\$8. 6:30 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

CLASSICAL MUSIC: Nodes will present Debussy's trio along with new and recent works by contemporary composers. \$10. 8:00 pm. Vaudeville Park [26 Bushwick Ave.] www.facebook.com/NodesPerformingArts.

GALLERY TOUR OF EGYPT REBORN: A Museum Guide leads a free tour of the installation Egypt Reborn. 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], brooklynmuseum.org.

ANALOG AS THE NEW FOLK: Performing with Xeno & Oaklander and Arp. Presented by LQQQ Part of Et cetera 2012: A week of art, talks, films, comedy, learning, music and more. Free. 8 pm. Public Assembly [70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188], www.publicassemblynyc.com.

MON, SEPT. 17

TALK, CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN: Michael Pierson leads a discussion. Free. 12:20-1:45 pm. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St., between Court and Clinton

TUES, SEPT. 18

ART, SOLO EXHIBITION: Check out "New Girl," Nana lida's art exhibit which is about outward feminine beauty such as big eyes and long hair, versus the inner side of beauty. 7-10pm. Ouchi gallery [170 Tillary St. Suite 507, (347) 987-4606], www.ouchigallery.com.

READING, ONE TEEN STORY LAUNCH: Launch of new young adult magazine. \$25. 8:00 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

MUSIC, AMERICAN FOLK NIGHT: Musicians playing will include

Shop talk: Playwright and performer Radha Blank is behind a one-woman show called "HappyFlowerNail," about kinship over fake nails at the BEAT Festival.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

http://

Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

WED, SEPT. 19

CLUB, FIRST DOLLS CLUB: For doll collectors. Meets the third Wed. of each month. No meeting in December and end of year luncheon held in June. Free. 2 and 4 pm. Chapter of the UF of Doll Clubs [301 Seabreeze Ave. at W. 5th Street in Brighton Beach, (718) 373-7990].

MUSIC, INNOVATIVE TRUMPET CONCERT: Nate Wooley and Mazen Kerbaj present an evening of solos and duo performances. \$10. 8 pm. Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral [113 Remsen St. in Downtown, (718) 330-0313].

COMEDY SHOW: With Brooklyn-based writer and actor Matt Silvestri. Free. 8 pm. Cameo Gallery [93 North 6th St. in Williamsburg, (718) 302-1180], www.cameony.net.

THURS, SEPT. 20

READING, NEW YORKER ILLUSTRATOR: Contemporary cartoonist Adrian Tomine, famous for his thought-provoking New Yorker covers, presents his new book. Free. 7. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

BROOKLYN INDIE MUSIC FEST: Featuring iET, Highly Suspect, Inky Jack, Quincy Mumford, Lyle Divinsky, Sri and The Dirty Urchins. \$10- \$12. 7:00 p.m. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

BUSINESS LAUNCH AND NETWORKING: Alotta Apartments is woman and minority owned real estate firm located in Lefferts's Gardens, and they are celebrating their first year as a brooklyn business. Free. 6 pm. South Oxford Space [138 South Oxford St. in Fort Greene, (347) 692-8707], www.alottaapartments.com.

YOUNG WRITERS NIGHT: Featuring fiction, poetry and song by local teenagers. Free. 7 pm. The Old Stone House [336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope], www.theoldstonehouse.org.

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SRDS

Pop-up vegan class

A meatless eatery teaches veggie cooking

By Anthony Smith
for The Brooklyn Paper

A small vegan pop-up is trying to take over the world — peacefully, of course.

Chickpea and Olive, a Smorgasburg favorite, isn't just serving healthy dishes in hopes of opening a more permanent restaurant, it's got its sights on changing attitudes about food in general, starting with your kitchen.

Unlike most pop-ups and their dreams of becoming food trucks or brick-and-mortar restaurants, the young chef and co-owner of Chickpea and Olive Danielle Ricciardi has no plans of going the traditional route anytime



soon. Rather, she and partner Daniel Strong are expanding their business through branding their way into your kitchen, giving vegan cooking classes at the Brooklyn Kitchen, as well as Haven's Kitchen in Chelsea.

"We attract vegans and omnivores alike," said Ricciardi. "They come to learn new cooking techniques, like how to roll tamales. What our students do with their new skills once they go home is really up to them, but for the 2 hours they are with us, we open their eyes to what we believe to be a kinder, more gentle life style."

Among their cruelty-free food, their Phatty Beet Slider, the star of their menu (and maybe the New York City vegan food scene altogether), is an indisputable triumph. Grilled, salted, and spiced to perfection, this Mediterranean-inspired, twee-green take on an All-American classic will win hearts and change minds, one bite at a time. It's the way the initial



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Teach a man to fish: Having brought vegan cuisine to pop-ups across the city, Daniel Strong and Danielle Ricciardi are taking over people's kitchens, too, with their cooking classes. (Pictured left) Find a delicious cruelty free slider with potato salad at Chickpea and Olive's stand at Smorgasburg.

beefiness of that first perfectly crunchy bite gives way to the smooth heat of spicy habanero ketchup and a springy vegan brioche that makes this burger rank among the best bites of food you'll ever have, plant-eater or not.

It's no wonder, then, that having perfected their craft so early in the game, Chickpea and Olive has their sights set on so much more than serving food. Ricciardi and Strong admit they do want to own a fleet of restaurants, eventually, and be at the helm of a small vegan empire of natural, artisanal vegan packaged foods. But for now they're not trying to proselytize the omnivorous masses so much as they're letting their food do the preaching for them, quietly planning world domination.

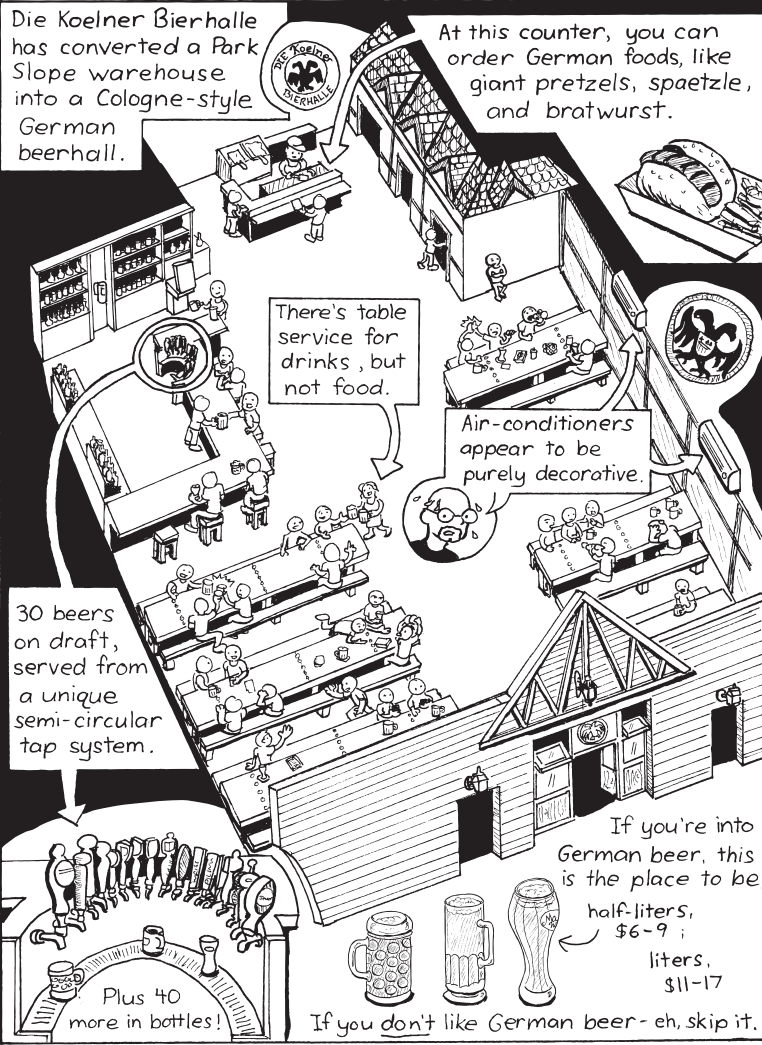
"We want to veganize everything and make it all better than the original," said Ricciardi. "A chickpea can dream, can't she?"

Chickpea and Olive at Smorgasburg (East River State Park, Kent Avenue, betw. N. Sixth and N. Seventh streets, www.chickpeaandolive.com/cooking-classes.html) Saturdays until Nov. 17, 11 am–6 pm.

BAR SCRAWL



By Bill Roundy



Die Koelner Bierhalle [84 St. Marks Place, betw. Fourth and Fifth avenues, in Park Slope, (347) 227-7238, www.thekbh.com]. Open Mon.–Fri., 2 pm–4 am; Sat., noon–4 am; Sun., noon–2 am.

Restaurant goes carb-core

New Italian eaterie in Columbia Waterfront District

By Anthony Smith
for The Brooklyn Paper

You won't find anything resembling chicken parmesan in Italy.

A new restaurant in the Columbia Waterfront District is eschewing the meat-heavy Americanized Italian cuisine for what Italians love most — pasta.

"We're focused on authentic regional Italian Cuisine," said Alex McWilliams, chef of the new Chio. "[We serve] no clichés of the typical Italian-American cuisine you see, like Chicken Marsala, picat-tas, oversized veal chops, and a lot of those things that people associate with Italian food that actually don't exist in Italy."

At Chio, in lieu of the laundry list of stereotypical dishes, you can expect to see a menu that spotlights the carbs that American eaters can correctly associate with Italian cuisine in new, exciting ways that place the focus on deepening the flavor profiles of the food rather than relying on heaping portions of seasoned meats to carry the bulk of their flavor.

In other words, while this menu isn't necessarily Atkins-friendly, you won't feel like you need to hibernate the second you get home.

Take their Sardinian flatbreads, for instance. Chef McWilliams boasts that they're very thin and crisp, and that they use a little bit of grano arose, a burned wheat flour that originated in the Italian region



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Ghetti-man: Alex McWilliams is the owner and chef at the new Chio, an Italian restaurant that focuses on flavorful pastas over the typical chicken parm.

of Puglia, to bring out a depth of flavor that belies the thinness of the bread. Their signature flatbread is a potato and Tuscan kale with pancetta and ricotta

That the crunch of their flatbreads fill your mouth with flavor even as the bread itself lfts against your tongue is emblematic of their approach to cooking and dining: small packages of food with big delivery.

According to Chef McWilliams, it's their stuzzichini that people keep coming in and coming back for. Think of stuzzichini as the Italian approach to tapas, those all-too-popular little bites of Spanish food that make more of an impact on your tongue (and your wallet, if you're not careful) than they do on your stomach. Of them, the charred octopus is the most popular item. It comes served with fingerling potatoes and dried ceriginola olives for a perfectly balanced bite.

It's the kind of item you don't typically see on an Italian menu because it's the kind of item that we think of as too small for the Italian menu. That alone is proof that Chef McWilliams is making good

on his mission to correct how Americans look at Italian food.

And thankfully, in this health-conscious, carb-phobic food moment, those corrections couldn't be more welcome.

Chio [117 Columbia St. at Kane Street, (718) 237-4300, chio-restaurant.com] Sun., Tues.–Thurs., 5 pm–10 pm, Fri., Sat. 5 pm–11pm. Closed Mon.

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Flexing their concepts

Brooklyn-grown dance movement comes to DUMBO

By Elyse Wanshel
The Brooklyn Paper

An alternative urban dance movement has sprouted from the streets of East New York, and is currently blossoming into the mainstream — having been featured in the Guggenheim in Manhattan, for example — and is on display this month at the DUMBO Arts Festival.

Called Flex, it is characterized by dancers who mime, contort, and pop and lock, breaking out into smooth Michael Jackson-inspired gliding, to do more than just show-off virtuosic talents — they tell stories of young love, gun fights, and even a fanciful visit to the local bodega. They give themselves names much like rappers, and b-boys — names like Scream, Element, or Flizzo, and they aim to deliver the unexpected.

“Flizzo had his nephew dress as a mini-Flizzo — complete with matching tattoos they drew on the kid’s stomach with a Sharpie and he did all the same moves as his uncle,” said Michael Beach Nichols, co-director of a documentary about the movement, “Flex is Kings.”

“And at the end of the dance, the kid opened his mouth and a little zebra finch flew out. I saw that, and I was like, ‘This is crazy!’”

Flex’s almost avant-garde dances began in an unlikely place.

A now-defunct Brooklyn community access television show was first called “Flex-n-Brooklyn,” which featured rappers, dancers, and any other kind of talent within



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

New movements: Dancers Element and Scream have the elements necessary to make audiences scream, with their burgeoning brand of dance, Flex.

the community — and most notably, Kareem Baptiste, the creator of an urban dance competition for the title of “King of the Streets,”

called BattleFest, where Flex has gained prominence.

The TV show — or the people who got together to watch it — created a community of dancers.

“The culture originally had nothing to do with dancing itself,” said Baptiste.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

THEATER, RADHA BLANK'S "HAPPYFLOWERNAIL": A one-woman play about a Korean-owned nail salon in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. As she seamlessly transitions from character to character, Radha challenges us to experience the multitudes of Brooklyn through this searing portrait of the borough. Tony-nominated actor and playwright Colman Domingo will direct. Tickets start a \$20. 7:30 pm. Iroindale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233], www.iroindale.org.

THEATER, CHAOS MANOR: The play is also a chance to see the unique set, which is a dilapidated loft building that was an after-hours jazz scene in the years 1957-1964. This is a Brook-

lyn Book Festival Bookend event, sponsored by A Public Space. 8 pm. The Invisible Dog [51 Bergen St. (347) 560-3641], www.theinvisibledog.org.

FRI, SEPT. 21

DANCE, COURTNEY GIAN-NONE: Choreographer, and dancer performs contemporary opera from the American Opera Projects and Opera on Tap. Free. Noon-1 pm. Metrotech Commons (Myrtle Avenue and Willoughby Street in Downtown).

READING, BROOKLYN INDIE PARTY!: Part of the Brooklyn Book Festival, Greenlight Bookstore will host a night of independent book and magazine publishers, complete with refreshments. Free. 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

SAT, SEPT. 22

MUSIC, WORLD MUSIC: The stylings of Rupa and April Fishes. \$12.00/\$15.00. 6:30 p.m. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

DANCE, CLASSICAL AND MODERN DANCE: Jamel Gaines' Creative Outlet Dance Theatre performs "Urban Roots." Tickets start a \$20. 3 pm. Iroindale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233], www.iroindale.org.

THEATER, OPERA-TION BROOKLYN: Opera about the subway, and even opera about "Stop-and-Frisk." Tickets start a \$20. 7:30 pm. Iroindale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233], www.iroindale.org.

DANCE, "MARSHALL DAVIS JR. & FRIENDS": Crown Heights-based hooper

makes profound music in the tradition of tap. Tickets start a \$20. 7:30 pm. The Waterfront Museum (290 Conover St.) www.BEAT-Brooklyn.com.

LAST NIGHT OF SUMMER LOVIN' PARTY: It's the last night of summer, so enjoy yourself at this Babeland quickie, where you can learn sex tips from the summer of 2012. Free. 7 pm. Babeland (462 Bergen St. between Fifth and Flatbush avenues in Park Slope), summerlovinbabeland.eventbrite.com.

ART PARTY: Art for Progress returns to The Paper Box in East Williamsburg for a new monthly multimedia experience showcasing some of the finest emerging talent NYC has to offer, taking place on Saturday nights the third week of each month. \$8. 8:00PM. The Paper Box [17 Meadow St. in East Williamsburg, (718) 383-3815], www.paperboxnyc.com.

MUSIC, MULTIMEDIA SHOW: AFP returns to The Paper Box in East Williamsburg for a new monthly multimedia experience showcasing some of the finest emerging talent NYC has to offer. \$8. 8 pm. The Paper Box [17 Meadow St. (718) 383-3815], www.paperboxnyc.com.

STRONG MAN RACE: Test your strength, endurance, and agility. \$110-\$160. 7 am. Aviator Sports and Events Center [3159 Flatbush Ave. (718) 758-7500].

BREUKELAN COUNTY FAIR: Go celebrate Brooklyn's rich farming history with a day of bluegrass music, crafts for all ages, puppet show, art, quilting workshops, apple cider pressing, and more. 1-6 pm. Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum [5816 Clarendon Rd. at Ralph avenue in East Flatbush, (718) 629-5400], www.wyckoffassociation.org.

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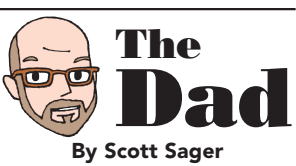
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PARENT

They went to a movie — sans me!

After a busy, chaotic summer, I have both my daughters home, together, for the first time in two months. I hear them stirring at the front door and ask where they're going. "To a movie, 'The Bourne Legacy'," one reports. I'm excited. Action movies are our thing. I start putting my shoes on when I notice them looking at me. "I'm not invited?" They shake their heads gently, trying to let me down easy. "We're going together." And they were off, leaving me at home with the dog. What's with that? I'm glad they were so happy to see each other after being apart so long. It was heart-

warming to hear them sitting together, talking into the night and to find them snuggled up watching TV. But that doesn't mean they get to shut me out. I imagined this day, years from now, my girls meeting, when they were grown, with their own apartments and lives, maybe for lunch or dinner or a movie, getting together with their spouses and kids. The thought always makes me smile. Having siblings who like each other and have a relationship as adults is one of those parenting success stories I dream of. But not now, when they are still teenagers living at home. This is the time of their lives I'm supposed to



be included in, right? Today I expect our interactions to be about family time, togetherness, enjoying the old man while you still can. The way I view my daughters' relationship is really based on the hope they will out last me. When I'm gone, they'll have each other to celebrate birthdays, holidays, send pictures of their kids, get a call on their birthday. Siblings make a fam-

ily when your parents are gone. But right now I'm still here, so take me to the movie. Then I realize it doesn't work that way. I can't expect my girls to simply turn on a relationship when they're older. That's something built one year at a time over a life. It certainly took me a while to form meaningful connections with my sisters, both a good bit older than me. Yet, their doing things with me when I was little, and as I grew, was certainly part of the foundation our adult interactions are built on. For my own daughters, doing things together, without me are the building blocks of their future alliance. They are already forming their

own traditions and rituals, helping each other pick out clothes, shopping, getting frozen yogurt together, even the way they share a black and white cookie, one eating the chocolate half and the other the vanilla. If I really believe they should build a strong connection then I need to get out of the way. When they came back from the movie I asked how it was. Both gave it rave reviews. I tried hard to hide my disappointment in not being included, but I did ask if they might go see it again with me, hoping to find room for both their private time and us all doing things together. I was delighted when they said "yes."

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LIBRARY...

Continued from page 1
new lighting before pushing back the new opening date to fall 2011. Then last summer the city once again delayed the proj-

ect's completion, noting the main floor and its support structure were "more deteriorated than expected." But neighbors sick of trek-

Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights called it a lame excuse for poor planning — and were only slightly less irked when the city pushed back the library's planned Labor Day 2012 opening date last month. Residents and parents now

hope the building's new face-lift revives the literary haunt as a meet-up point in the heart of Park Slope. "It's a great space for people to come together," said Susan Fox of Park Slope Parents. "We've been missing it."

CYCLONES...

Continued from page 1
off the evening by slapping a grounder up the middle off Renegades starter Jesse Hahn in the first. He rounded the bases as Hahn plunked third baseman Dimas Ponce and Clones shortstop Phillip Evans grounded into a 5-4-3 double play — leaving Nimmo in scoring position when first

baseman Jayce Boyd chopped a grounder to center. The Mini-Mets scored three more runs in a disastrous second frame for Hahn whose costly throwing error on a sac bunt allowed Clones second baseman Juan Carlos Gamboa to reach base, leaving him with runners on the corners with no outs. Hahn

then gave up a double to designated hitter Jorge Rivero, which scored one, and intentionally walked Nimmo before giving up run-scoring singles to Ponce and Evans. **PLAYOFF GAME 2** Sept. 9, Dutchess Stadium The Renegades came back with a vengeance that rivaled the thunderstorms that pushed Saturday match to Sunday. The pride of Wappingers Falls pounded the Cy-

clones' pitching staff during a painful 8-1 loss that would have been a shutout if right fielder Eudy Pena didn't muster- turn up a home run to left-center field. The Renegades got on the board first in the first thanks to a triple by Renegade second baseman Thomas Coyle and an RBI single by Luke Maile off Cylcone starter Luis Mateo then scored another run in the fourth when Maile, who had singled and advanced to third on a walk and a single, scored on a sacrifice fly. But after Pena raised everyone's hopes, everything fell apart: Mateo gave up a single to Renegades center fielder Joey Rickard and then walked Coyle. An error by Evans at shortstop let Shaffer reach base — and let Rickard score. Clones reliever Paul Sewald sent the Renegades down in order at the bottom of the sixth frame, but Cyclones skipper Rich Donnelly opted to send out Logan Taylor in the seventh, with terrible results. Back-to-back-to-back singles to Coyle, Shaffer, and Maile followed by a ground out by Maile brought Coyle home before Taylor gave up a bases-clearing double to shortstop Leonardo Reginatto, putting Hudson Valley up 6-1 and the game out of reach. **PLAYOFF GAME 3** Sept. 10, Dutchess Stadium The do-or-die rubber match ended in the first inning for the Clones when starter Luis Cessa surrendered a line-drive triple, then threw a wild pitch that allowed a second Renegade to score. Cessa managed to regain his composure in the next frame, limiting the Renegades to just two more hits, zero walks, and zero runs during his next five innings on the mound before reliever Matthew Bowman came on in the seventh and held the Renegades scoreless for an additional two innings without giving up a single hit, but by then the Clones ineffective offense all but secured a Renegades victory. Coney's batters managed to scrape up just one hit the entire night — a line drive single to center off the bat of Evans in the third inning. Designated hitter Kevin Plawecki drew a walk with two outs to allow Evans to advance to second, but left fielder Stefan Sabol ended the frame when he grounded into a force out, marking the last time the Cyclones had a runner in scoring position. The Mini-Mets sluggers went down in order in the last five innings, as Hudson Valley blanked Brooklyn 2-0.

MARKET...

Continued from page 1
through years of having few choices of places to shop for food says store owner Mark Goris. "We thought the neighborhood was underserved," said the Williamsburg-born owner of the shop. "The area is going through a huge gentrification and the people coming here needed more options. But we want to serve everyone in the neighborhood."

So the shop offers a mix that includes of high-end mustard and \$7 wedges of Manchego cheese alongside cans of beans and boxes of Cheerios. The market is the second grocery to come to Myrtle Avenue in the last year, joining the Red Apple market that opened near Ashland Avenue last Halloween. Brooklyn Fare, another high-end grocer, sits a few blocks away

Before that, the area was considered by many to be a "food desert" that needed a supermarket so badly, the city okayed a controversial plan to knock down the historic Admirals Row houses in the nearby Brooklyn Navy Yard and replace them with a suburban-style supermarket. That market has still not opened. But during the past 10 years, Downtown's population has swelled from a few hundred to more than 10,000, Census figures show, and food markets have started

to move in without government action. Along with Red Apple, the Brooklyn Fare Market opened on Schermerhorn and Hoyt street in 2009. But experts say that with a population increase, new markets were inevitable — because they could finally make money. "Groceries aren't a super high-margin business and they need a lot of people to make them work," said legendary real-estate broker Chris Havens. "Slowly but surely things are changing."

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, September 17th: 10:00 AM

Junior Congregation Grades K-4: 11:30 AM

Youth Service Grades 5-7: 12:00 Noon

Youth Program Grades K-4: 12:00 Noon

Meet and greet Rabbis Joseph Potasnik and Seth Wax: 3:45 PM

TASHLICH - Walk to the river at 4:30 PM

SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Tuesday, September 18th: 10:00 AM

Youth Holiday Program for grades K-4: 10:15 AM

KOL NIDRE - Tuesday, September 25th: 6:30 PM

YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, September 26th: 10:00 AM

YIZKOR: 12:00 Noon

Junior Congregation Service - Grades K-4: 11:30 AM

Youth Service Grades 5-7: 12:00 Noon

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Legal Notices

Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Kings Diane Ford Hayward, Plaintiff, -against - Colin Joseph Hayward, defendant Index No: 54130/11 Date summons filed: July 20th, 2012 Plaintiff designates County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is Kings County, Brooklyn, NY ACTION FOR A DIVORCE The grounds for divorce that are allowed as follows: Cruel and Inhuman Treatment (DRL 170(1)): At the following times, none of which are earlier than five (5) years prior to commencement of this action, the Defendant engaged in conduct that so endangered the mental and physical well-being of the Plaintiff, so as to render it unsafe or improper for the parties to cohabitate (live together) as husband and wife. To the above named defendant: You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer on the Plaintiff within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the state, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. Defendant may no longer be covered by Plaintiffs health insurance upon the entry of a judgment of divorce and he may be responsible for his own health coverage

Notice is hereby given that license serial #1265103 has been applied for by 942 FOURTH AVE REST CORP d/b/a SPIRO'S CAFE to sell wine and beer at retail in a restaurant, for On-Premises consumption under the ABC law at 942 4th Ave, Brooklyn NY 11232

Notice is hereby given that license Serial # 1264952 has been applied for by COFFEE FRIENDS CORP to sell wine at retail in a restaurant. For On Premises consumption under the ABC law at 1035 Manhattan Ave, Brooklyn NY 11222

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 09/05/12, bearing Index Number NC-001013-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Eshan (Last) Devore. My present name is (First) Ehasun (Middle) Uddin (Last) Dulal AKA Ehasun U Dulal. My present address is 4315 14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11219. My place of birth is Brooklyn, N.Y. My date of birth is July 10, 1993.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 09/10/12, bearing Index Number NC-001025-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Ferdous (Middle) Ara (Last) Hossain. My present name is (First) Ferdous (Middle) Ara Begum (Last) Islam AKA Ferdous A B Islam. My present address is 558 Crescent Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208. My place of birth is Bangladesh. My date of birth is June 20, 1983.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/30/2012, bearing Index Number NC-000466-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Charlene (Last) Ortiz. My present name is (First) Charlene (Last) Ortiz Astacio. My present address is 195 Hoyt Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is September 13, 1982.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 08/23/2012, bearing Index Number NC-000483-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Jeremy (Middle) Luis (Last) Farsakh. My present name is (First) Jeremy (Middle) Luis (Last) Said-Farsakh (infant). My present address is 540 Ovington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is December 03, 2004

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 08/23/2012, bearing Index Number NC-000482-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Jarius (Middle) Laiq (Last) Farsakh. My present name is (First) Jarius (Middle) Laiq (Last) Said-Farsakh (infant). My present address is 540 Ovington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is January 23, 2010

Fifth Avenue Committee is applying for the New York State Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program. A public meeting is being held on September 24, 2012 for community members of South Brooklyn. The application is available for review, 30 days from this notice. Please contact 718-237-2017 ext. 127 for meeting details or to review the application.

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All employment advertised herein is subject to section 296 of the human rights law, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, creed, national origin, disability, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, or arrest conviction record, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Title 29, U.S. Code, Chap 630, excludes the Federal Gov't from the age discrimination provisions. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for employment which is in violation of the law. Our readers are informed that employment offerings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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"An improved system will create better access to high quality, community-focused healthcare."

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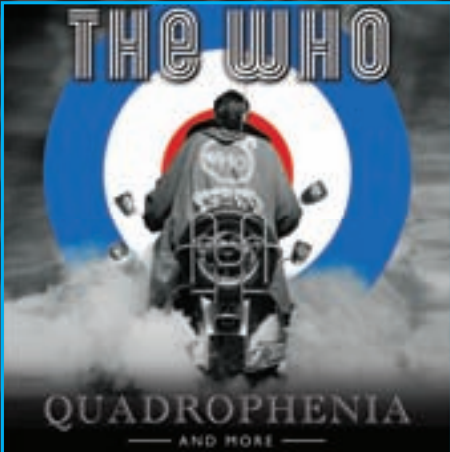
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